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25 JUN 1982

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD:

SUBJECT: New Gulf of Sidra Exercise

- On 25 June 1982, the undersigned was informed by David Schnieder, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs, on the current state of play of the proposed new exercise in the Gulf of Sidra:
- DoD must start planning 1 July in order to hold a missile exercise in the Gulf on 15 August. State's position is that this initial step to begin planning should not be made, as once planning is underway a certain momentum will develop. State believes that the Middle East will not be calmed down by that time, and if Qadhafi sends his planes against the Sixth Fleet it will make things even tougher on the Arab moderates than at present.
- Even with the 15 August missile exercise cancelled, there will still remain the possibility of a sail-through in August or November or a missile exercise in January.
- 2. Schnieder said that State asks that the Agency support the above position and said it was his understanding that a CIA analytical paper drafted on the subject is in accordance with State's position.

Chief, Near East and South Asia Division

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